



### **SHARON L. GABER, Ph.D. CHANCELLOR**

Sharon L. Gaber, Ph.D., serves as the fifth chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, the Charlotte region's public research university. Since her arrival as chancellor in 2020, the University has embarked on a bold 10-year strategic plan articulating a new vision to drive discovery and innovation for the region as a globally recognized public research university. Charlotte officially earned the nation's top research designation, Carnegie R1, in February 2025.

In 2024, Gaber was named to The Charlotte Business Journal's Power 100, which recognized the region's top innovators. She also has been named to Business North Carolina's Power List for four consecutive years.

Deeply engaged in community and regional activities, Gaber serves on the board of Charlotte Center City Partners and is a member of the Charlotte Executive Leadership Council, Charlotte's Leading on Opportunity Council, Women Executives, and the International Women's Forum - Carolinas. She also serves on the Executive Committee of the American Athletic Conference.

Officially the first woman to serve as chancellor of UNC Charlotte, Gaber follows the trail blazed by founding educator Bonnie Cone, who led the institution from 1946-66 through several stages of growth.



### **BRYSON FOSTER '23 COMMUNICATION STUDIES**

Bryson Foster is a master's degree candidate in communication studies, preparing to graduate in May. It will be his second degree from UNC Charlotte, having completed a bachelor's degree in communication studies and minor in journalism in 2023. While an undergraduate, Bryson was a leader with the student-led newspaper, Niner Times, as an award-winning sports writer, assistant sports editor, sports editor, interim editor-in-chief and, now, its outreach coordinator.

In 2023, he placed second at the North Carolina College Media Association Awards in sports journalism and earned the College Media Association Pinnacle Award for the nation's best college sports feature for "The Man Who Motivated Michael Jordan," an in-depth article about Niner basketball alumnus Leroy Smith. Bryson's passion for storytelling was sparked as a middle school student with a chance to host the Muscular Dystrophy Association annual telethon when he served as the organization's national ambassador.



### **TIM ALBIN**

#### **CHARLOTTE 49ERS HEAD FOOTBALL COACH**

Tim Albin, a two-time Mid-American Conference Coach of the Year and head coach of the 2024 MAC champions, was named Charlotte's head football coach in December. Albin arrived at Charlotte after four seasons as Ohio's head coach, where he compiled a 33-19 record, including a 23-9 mark in conference play. Over the past three years, he led the Bobcats to 30 wins—the most successful stretch in program history—while securing three consecutive 10-win seasons and bowl appearances. His success earned him recognition as a semifinalist for the Maxwell Football Club's Munger Award for National Coach of the Year.

A Woodward, Okla., native, Albin was a key figure in Ohio's program since 2005, serving as running backs coach, offensive coordinator, and eventually head coach. Before Ohio, he was the offensive coordinator and running backs coach at North Dakota State. His coaching career began at Nebraska under Frank Solich, where he spent four seasons. Before his time in Lincoln, Albin was head coach at his alma mater, Northwestern Oklahoma State, leading the team to a perfect 13-0 season and the 1999 NAIA National Championship. He was named NAIA Coach of the Year by Rawlings and American Football Coach magazine. He began coaching at Northeastern State (Okla.), where he won two conference titles as an assistant football coach and two more as head of the men's track program.

As a player, Albin was a three-time All-OIC first-team wide receiver at NWOSU and the first Ranger to earn All-District IX honors three times. He holds a Business Administration degree from NWOSU and a postgraduate degree from Northeastern State. Albin and his wife, Brooke, have two children, Tori and Treyce, and are proud grandparents to Callen.



### **JOHN TOBIAS '94**

#### **SPORTS ANALYTICS PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

John Tobias '94 is a lecturer and program director for UNC Charlotte's Sports Analytics Program, teaching students the impact of analytics in sports. His teaching encompasses various areas such as free agency, contract negotiations, TV broadcasting, and more, providing students with a comprehensive understanding of the role analytics plays in the sports industry.

A former finance professional, Tobias is a 1994 UNC Charlotte alumnus and went on to earn a master's degree in sport management from High Point University. Since 2013, he has worked as a TV statistician at ESPN, providing advanced stats for broadcasts.

In 2019, he introduced a sports analytics course at UNC Charlotte, collaborating with local pro teams, including the Carolina Panthers, the Hornets, the Charlotte Knights, and the Charlotte Football Club. He also founded Strength in Numbers, a nonprofit dedicated to increasing diversity in sports analytics by supporting underrepresented students.